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THE TAUERN POWER SYSTEM

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In 1950, the Tauernkraftwerke AG (Tauern Power Plants, Inc) produced only 82 million kilowatt-hours of electricity, mainly peak winter power. (1) From October 1951 to March 1952 alone, about 145 million kilowatt-hours were supplied to the public grid, and reserves even remained in the reservoir. (2)

The completion of the Limberg dam in September 1951 increased the annual production of the main level of Kaprun to 210 million kilowatt-hours, of which 185 million kilowatt-hours can be produced in winter as valuable peak power. This includes 160 million kilowatt-hours which can be produced from the 84 million cubic meters of reservoir water stored in summer for use during the winter.(3). The Kaprun power plant generates 200,000 kilowatts (1)

The Moell dam was completed in October 1952; and the Moell tunnel will conduct the glacier water of the Pasterze region on the south side of the Tauern Mountains into the Mooserboden reservoir on the north side. (4) This will produce an additional 250 million kilowatt-hours of electricity annually and will increase the total annual production of the main Kaprun level to 460 million

The completion of the Mooserboden reservoir with an 84-million-cubic-meter capacity will complete the construction program. It, together with the Limberg power plant, which will utilize the drop between the two large reservoirs and which will generate 312 megawatts, will bring the total annual production capacity of the Tauern power plants to 620 million kilowatt-hours, of which 460 million kilowatt-hours can be produced in winter. The energy content of the reservoirs will amount to an additional 385 million kilowatt-hours. (3) An additional 200 million kilowatt-hours of useless night flow can be raised with pumps from the lower-level Limberg reservoir up to the Mooserboden reservoir for use. (2)

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1. Location: Austria, Salzburg Province, Moell Dam

Caption and Description: "The Moell Dam - a Technical Masterpiece. Together With the Margaritzen Dam Which Is to the Right (not shown), It Will Hold 3 Million Cubic Meters of Water. The Moell Dam is 92 Meters High and 7½ Meters Thick at the Thickest Place. The Water Level Will Reach up to the Middle of the Scaffolding at the Top of the Dam." Photograph shows the Moell dam from the upstream side. On the left, the square opening on the side of the cliff is the bottom discharge conduit. Just to the left above it is the intake structure of the Moell turnel which will conduct the glacier water of the Pasterze region to a reservoir on the north side of the Tauern Mountains

Photograph Description: Size, 3 x 4 inches; fair; newsprint

Source: Salzburger Nachrichten, Salzburg, 20 October 1952, page 8

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- 1. Salzburg, Salzburger Nachrichten, 12 Aug 52
- 2. Vienna, Neue Wiener Tageszeitung, 2 Oct 52
- 3. Vienna, Oesterreichische Wasserwirtschaft, Vol III, No 10, Oct 51
- 4. Salzburger Nachrichten, 20 Oct 52

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